**COVID-19 Return to Nursery**

**If any clinical advice is needed setting, staff, parents, or guardians should go online to NHS 111, or call 111 if they do not have internet access**

**Feb 2021**

* All children can attend the Nursery.

**Spaces:**

We are able of offer all children to return to Nursery.

If you do not wish your child to return to the nursery then you need to contact the Manager.

**Fees:**

Fees and sickness Policy will be the same as when you started and if your child is off unwell you will need to still pay.

Payments of invoices for all parents will have to be paid by the 16th of the Month by BACS payment or over the phone – so that I can pay staff wages. If payment is not received by the 16th of every month unfortunately you child’s place will be retracted.

If you had an agreement with the Nursery to pay at the end of the month unfortunately, due to loss of revenue we can no longer offer this.

**Opening Times:**

Our normal opening times are 7.30am to 6pm. The present opening times are 8am – 5pm due to National Lockdown and infection rates. Opening times are reviewed fortnightly and changes made in line with COVID-19 infection rates and Government lockdown restrictions.

**Travelling to Nursery:**

All children coming to the setting should avoid all non-essential public transport.

**Buggy Shed:**

The buggy shed will not be open to parents, all buggies, children’s scooters / bikes will not be able to be left at the Nursery. Parents must take these home with them.

**Risk Assessment:**

A risk assessment has been completed for Staff, children and Families which will outline how the nursery is going to reduce the level of risk.

**Zoom Sessions**

The nursery will use zoom sessions to involve outside agencies for any support that the children require or is needed. Zoom sessions will also be used wherever possible to avoid any necessary persons coming into the nursery for example, interviews, show arounds and apprenticeship courses.

The Manager is responsible for ensuring that all zoom meetings are secure and secure apps are used such as Go To Meeting.

**Family / Staff Risk Assessment:**

A daily risk assessment (verbally) will be carried out before your child can enter the building.

**COVID-19 Symptoms**

If any parents, children, or any member of the household have any of the symptoms of COVID-19 you should not bring your child into nursery. The child cannot return until a negative test result has been confirmed or current isolation guidelines followed.

If your child or anybody living in the household is waiting for a test result, do not send your child in until you receive the results.

**Dropping Off and Picking Up**

Little Stars and Comets will use the front door to drop off and pick up.

Planets and Milky Way Movers will come in through the back gate.

The Nursery will have markings on the floor to ensure that you adhere to social distancing whilst waiting to either drop off your child or picking them up.

I would prefer that parents or families living in the same household drops and picks up your children, however some families have been allowed to create bubbles with other people outside the home. Please inform the nursery if you have created a bubble and who from this bubble will be dropping off and picking up your children.

No parents will be allowed into the Nursery.

Children will have to sanitise their hands before entering the building by using the hand sanitising units provided. Children will in Comet and Planet room will have to put their lunch boxes on their allocated lunch trolley before entering the building. Parent's upstairs can bring their lunchboxes into the building and will have an allocated place to leave them upstairs.

**Children’s Rooms**

The nursery operates as one bubbles upstairs and downstairs. If a child or staff has a positive test result then the Nursery will contact the PHE to get guidance on isolation for the whole nursery.

Social Distancing: Staff will socially distance 2m if possible or 1m if possible, from each other, however as we all know children do not understand socially distancing but we will ensure activities will be provided to try and limit their contact to each other. We will be doing activities and developing children’s awareness of social distancing by reading books and games. We will be minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times).

The garden will be used as much as possible as the risk is less in the open space.

The children will be supported to do as much for themselves as possible.

**Meals:**

Children must bring in a packed lunch, we will be supplying snacks am and pm.

Breakfast is only offered for children that come in at 7.30am, children coming in from 8.30 must have had their breakfast before Nursery.

**PLEASE ENSURE A FREEZER BLOCK IS PUT IN YOUR CHILDS LUNCHBOX AS LUNCHBOXES WILL NOT BE EMPTED AND WILL BE KEPT IN THEIR ROOMS.**

Lunchboxes to be put in allocated lunch trollies before entering the building.

The Nursery is going to provide children from Planets and Comets a high tea at 4.00pm. Examples, pasta, wraps, sandwiches with a yogurt this is due to still having staff on furloughed. Nursery teas for Little Stars and Milky Way Movers are available for an extra cost.

**Clothing:**

**You can now bring in your child’s bag to nursery and supply spare clothes.**

Please ensure that you wash your child’s clothes when they go home. Children must have freshly washed clothes on when coming to Nursery. All staff will be washing their clothes at the Nursery and wearing fresh clothes every day.

**Sun Cream / Sun Hats:**

You will need to apply sun cream to your child before they come to nursery. A child that is staying for longer than 4 hours must supply a labelled bottle of sun cream to stay a nursery so that a member of staff can apply sun cream. Staff will use PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to re-apply sun cream.

You will provide your child with a sun hat to come into nursery, Nursery sun hats will not be provided.

You will need to supply sun cream and sun hat on your child’s first day back which will be kept at Nursery.

**Toys from Home or Comforters:**

Please do not allow your child to bring in any toys from home please check their pockets, and if they have a comforter that is a soft toy / blanket please leave that at home.

If your child does need a comforter/dummy, then please contact the Nursery before your child starts back.

**Unwell Child:**

If you have given you child any form of paracetamol or ibuprofen your child will not be allowed into Nursery until 48hours (about 2 days) after symptoms have ended and a negative COVID-19 test result – or you may wish to follow guidance on self-isolation.

We will be taking children’s temperatures 15mins after they come into Nursery and in the afternoon, if your child has a temperature then we will ask you to take them back home and will not be able to return for 48hours (about 2 days) and a negative COVID-19 test result – or you may wish to follow guidance on self-isolation.

If a child becomes unwell at Nursery with a temperature or a cough you will asked to get them from Nursery immediately. The unwell child will be taken to a room or garden to isolate behind a closed door and a window will be opened. Staff will wear PPE protection a face shield, apron and gloves whilst giving care to the unwell child. The child will not be able to return for 48hours and a negative COVID-19 test result – or you may wish to follow guidance on self-isolation.

If any child has a positive test then the rest of the children in their group, families and staff will have to isolate for 14 days (about 2 weeks). The other group will still be able to come to nursery due to these two groups not having any contact.

**PPE**

Members of staff will be given the choice as to wear full clear face masks, gloves and aprons whilst working directly with the children. This has not been the guidance from the Government; however, I am giving this choice to my staff to support them with the confidence to return. PPE will also be used when dealing with any personal care.

Children that need nappy changing we ask that your child has a clean nappy coming into Nursery, children will be changed after lunch and then you will need to change them upon returning home. Of course, if you child needs a nappy change due to soiling then we will of course do that. Full PPE will be used whilst changing nappies.

**Handovers**

We will not be doing any handovers at the end of the session; the handovers will be put on the parent zone for you to read at home. If you need further information then please phone the nursery, and if we have any concerns then we will phone you to discuss any issues.

**Toys and Furnishing:**

The nursery will have to minimise the resources available to the children so that they can be cleaned effectively.

All resources will be provided that is easy to clean.

All soft furnishes will be removed from the room.

The room will be set out to promote children’s distancing to allow them to have more space and tables with activities on.

**Delivering the EYFS:**

The staff will try and continue with your child’s next steps and completing observations but our main most focus when returning will be their emotional needs.

Children will be supported to understand the changes and challenges they may be experiencing because of COVID-19, and staff will be aware of children’s attachments and their need for emotional support at this time.

**Protective Cleaning Measure**

The staff will be completing a deep clean at the end of day, and cleaning the room, surfaces etc regularly throughout the day.

The Manager will ensure that all communal spaces are cleaned throughout the day.

**Scientific Evidence:**

Spread and vulnerability to disease:

Infectivity and transmission in children the exact rates of infectivity and transmission of children is not fully known yet; this is a novel virus and the scientific understanding is developing all the time. However, the current understanding is that:

* There is a high degree of confidence that the severity of disease in children is lower than in adults.
* There is a moderate to high degree of confidence that the susceptibility to clinical disease of younger children (up to age 11 to 13) is lower than for adults. For older children there is not enough evidence yet to determine whether susceptibility to disease is different to adults.
* The susceptibility to infection of younger children (up to age 11 to 13) might be lower than for adults, but the degree of confidence in this is low. For older children there is not enough evidence yet to determine whether susceptibility to infection is different to adults.
* There is no evidence to suggest that children transmit the virus any more than adults. Some studies suggest younger children may transmit less, but this evidence is mixed and provides a low degree of confidence at best.

**Hygiene:**

Children will be required to wash their hands on a regularly basis, using a tissue or coughing into their elbow all in line with Government Guidelines. Bins with tissue will be emptied on a regularly basis. If children do require support with toileting then we will support this with the use of PPE.

Children will be taught hygiene through songs, games, and discussions.

Throughout the day children will be required to wash their hands regularly.

**SEN Children receiving 1-1 Support**

SEN children will still receive their 1-1 support in the groups, and we will risk assess individually with the parent before coming to Nursery.

**Children’s Emotional Needs**

Our priority for our children is their wellbeing we understand that the nursey will be different. If your child is upset, they will be comforted we want the children to see that this “new normal” means that it is still fun at nursery, making good friendships and they feel safe at nursery.

**Sleeping children / sleep room**

Sleeping children that sleep in the room will use a sleep mat and a sheet for a cover. The sleep mats will be washed down with a detergent and the cover washed after every use on a high heat.

Sleep rooms will still be used, and mattresses will be washed down with detergent and sheets washed after every use on a high heat.

If a child sleeps in a pushchair then after use the pushchair will be washed down with a detergent before it is used for another child.

**Reviews**

I will be reviewing the nursery on a weekly and monthly basis. This will not be driven by money but for the safety of the children, families, and the staff. I will advise you at every decision that I make so that we can all work together to ensure this “new normal” is safe. If I do believe that the Nursery is not safe for children, families, or staff, I will not hesitate to shut the nursery.